adversely affect the economy and the economic development of the entire region.

In view of the above, I would urge upon the Union Government to help the State Government of Assam in developing and improving the conditions of the National Highways on a priority basis and thus give a boost to the economic development of the North-East region.

(vi) Need to Establish Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres along the West Coast of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Arabian Sea coast of Kanyakumari district is one of the major fish producing centres in the country. Fishermen in large numbers live there. They fully depend on fishing, which is their traditional and the only occupation. Now, the frequent sea erosion which occurs there, has washed away and damaged the natural landing and berthing places of fishing vessels which stand on the way to carry on fishing during monsoon season, and thus during this season for a period of five months, due to rough sea, mighty waves and cruel winds, they cannot operate their fishing vessels into the sea. The only protection to them from these adverse circumstances is the establishment of fishing harbours and fish landing centres along the west coast of Kanyakumari district to enable the fishermen to park, land and operate their fishing vessels. But fishing harbours and fish landing centres have not been established there. So, they go for fishing to the coastal villages of other States throughout the country where they are faced with stiff resistance, harassment and humiliation from local fishermen. So, their survival is threatened.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the establishment of fishing harbours and fish landing centres along the West coast of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu.

(vii) Need to set up a Hostel in Ghaziabad (U.P.) for the students pursuing higher education

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ghaziabad district is an important industrial town and since long people of scheduled castes are living in the village of this district. There is a long standing demand for opening a Dr. Ambedkar students hostel in Ghaziabad because in absence of a students hostel people belonging to far-flung villages from the rural areas find it difficult to impart higher education to their wards and therefore, many children stop their education at primary level. They have to face financial difficulty in meeting the daily bus fare to and from the far flung villages and hiring rented rooms in city. Therefore, there could not be any increase in the percentage of education in the area. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to accord immediate approval for opening a Dr. Ambedkar students hostel in Ghaziabad.

(viii) Need for early implementation of Rengali irrigation and OECF assisted Water Supply Projects in Dhenkanal District of Orissa to overcome drought situation

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, the State of Orissa is now reeling under the grip of a severe drought. The State Government of Orissa has declared 12 out of 30 districts in the State as drought-hit districts on the basis of the first crop cutting report. But there are several more districts where drought of severe nature has been prevailing.

The situation in western Orissa is very critical. The people of the tribal dominated districts are fleeing to the neighbouring States in search of job.

The situation in undivided Dhenkanal district is also very critical as the district is facing an acute drought situation. The crop situation became worse in September due to scanty rainfall in Dhenkanal area. The rate of rainfall was only 30 milimetres. About 50 per cent of the people in that district depend on rain water for cultivation. But due to scanty rainfall 90 per cent of the farmers in Dhenkanal constituency are facing severe drought situation. So, the entire district and the area should be declared as drought-affected.

Unless immediate steps are taken to complete the Rengali irrigation project and also to implement the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund assisted water supply project in Dhenkanal it will be very difficult to control the drought situation. At the same time, I would urge the Union Government to provide adequate funds to all the drought-affected areas in Dhenkanal and other drought-hit districts in the State so that the labour intensive work and projects for the provision of drinking water are started on a war footing. Funds should be sanctioned to complete all the on-going projects in Dhenkanal constituency expeditiously.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you as you have allowed me to raise a very important issue. In the morning, during Question Hour, some Members had raised the issue of sugercane prices whereas the question was related to the sugar mills. At that time also, the hon'ble Minister of Food could not give a satisfactory reply. As far as I know, payment of Rs.7.5 crore of sugarcane growers is outstanding in Uttar Pradesh alone and the sugar mills in the entire Uttar Pradesh have started functioning in the last week of this month i.e. on 22th. However, some of these mills have not started functioning as yet. Farmers have suffered a loss for one month as their fields have not been vacated for the next crop. Besides this, sugar mills owners are gaining time in starting their mills. They are not ensuring that the entire crop of sugarcane will be purchased by them. All these things are